

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

February 9, 2007

Message From County Executive Walker

A number of stories involving people using or attempting to use the transit system came up this week. Obviously, they are of concern to me.

First, let me be clear that the overwhelming majority of people who ride the bus - including most teenagers - do so without any problems. The company that runs the transit system runs a safe system and the operators are trained professionals.

Next, while the stories of problems were isolated acts, they still point to a larger problem. In particular, adults need to be mindful of where their kids are and what they are doing. They need to teach their children to respect others and demand that they do so.

Far too many young people depend on the bus system to get to school and to responsible part-time jobs, so banning teens on the transit system is not a viable option. Still, parents, grandparents and other adults must demand that the few teenagers causing trouble not hurt the many others who are acting responsibly on the bus, in our schools and in the workplace. All of us who live in Milwaukee County must do more to make sure we know what our kids are doing.

Scott

Walker Proposal on POBs Advances In State Budget

On Wednesday, Governor Doyle gave his support for County Executive Scott Walker's plan to issue Pension Obligation Bonds (POBs) to help address the high cost of funding the county's pension plan. The POB plan was recommended by both the Governor's Task Force on Milwaukee County's Finances and the Greater Milwaukee Committee task force. It was included in the 2007 Milwaukee County budget by Walker.

Walker issued the following statement following the Governor's announcement: "I am pleased that the Governor's *Growing Milwaukee for Wisconsin's Future* plan includes support of my Pension Obligation Bond (POB) plan. Passage will allow the county to move forward with the plan I unveiled in the county budget last fall."

"Under that plan, the county would save \$6.25 million annually over the next 30 years. That is long-term budgetary relief with a strong stabilization fund that provides long-term protection."

"This is good news for Milwaukee County taxpayers and I want to thank the Governor and Secretary Morgan for their leadership on this issue."



New Human Resources Director Appointed

Milwaukee County Director of Administrative Services Linda Seemeyer has nominated Dr. Karen Jackson to serve as the new Director of Human Resources. Dr. Jackson previously served as Deputy Director of Human Resources and has been the Acting Director since Charles McDowell retired from his position.

Dr. Jackson's appointment is contingent upon approval by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.

Valentine's Day At The Domes

Imagine a candle lit stroll, hand in hand with your sweetheart, on Valentine's Day, in a tropical paradise, savoring fine wine and select chocolates, listening to romantic sounds from a harpist, then pausing near a 25 ft. cascading waterfall.

The Mitchell Park Domes, 524 S. Layton Boulevard, invites you and your Valentine to an evening of romantic elegance on Wednesday, February 14th from 6 pm to 10pm. Enjoy chocolate, wine, hors d'oeuvres, and specialty cakes from Rich's House of Cakes. Listen to the Riverwest Accordion and Mandolin Club.

Admission to this Valentine event is \$10 for adults, Friends of the Domes \$5, and children (6-17 years) \$5. The Garden Railway Trainshow, "Last Train to Toon Town," will be running on over 500 ft. of track in the show dome. Light desserts and beverages will be available for purchase. For more information go to www.countyparks.com or call the Domes at (414) 649-9830.

Walker Hosts Event At Red Arrow Park With Disney On Ice



County Executive Walker was joined by members of *Disney On Ice* at Red Arrow Park for *Hula For Heat*. The event helped to raise money for the Keep Wisconsin Warm Fund. We Energies and the State of Wisconsin have agreed to match the donations.

The Keep Wisconsin Warm Fund is a statewide, non-profit, public/private partnership that steps in and keeps the heat and power on for thousands of families in crisis. Many of these households pay between 50-60% of their monthly income toward energy costs.

Fundraiser For Deputy Johnson

There will be a fundraiser and benefit on Sunday, February 18th for Milwaukee County Sheriff's Deputy Tim Johnson at Domnick's Bar and Grill, 11027 South 27th Street, located inside the Franklin Golf Dome.

Deputy Johnson was injured earlier this year while responding to a traffic incident on the freeway. Deputy Johnson's condition is improving, but his needs are still great.

The event will take place from noon to 2:00am.